

Interracial News Service

A DIGEST OF TRENDS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN HUMAN RELATIONS

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"THE BASIS OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING CAN BE
FOUND WHEN WE LEARN TO RESPECT THE DIGNITY OF THE HUMAN SOUL."

—Carlos P. Romulo,
President, U.N. General Assembly.

GLOBAL GLIMPSES

INDONESIA

Simultaneous ceremonies in this land (Indonesia) of 60,000,000 brown people, and Amsterdam, Holland, almost 10,000 miles away, marked the birth on December 27, 1949, of the United States of Indonesia. . . . It was a goal sought for over 300 years by the natives of this, the fourth richest country on earth. Carved out of bloody warfare between natives and Dutch military forces for the last five years, and the steadying influence of a United Nations Commission, the Indonesian Republic became a reality amid noisy fanfare and twenty-one gun salutes to the new Republic and its leader, President Achmed Soekarno, who had once been Prime Minister. . . .

Indonesia has been a rich prize sought by many nations . . . the Japanese made use of what was left of its oil when they forced natives and Dutch to retreat with a scorched earth policy in World War II. Copper, tin, rubber, coffee and other resources made this country the fourth richest in the world. . . . The Dutch finally yielded to the ultimatum of the U.N., which was backed heavily by implied threats from the United States, and agreed to have the Indonesian Republic set up. . . . At the Dutch capital, The Hague, Queen Julianna said congratulations to the nation which her country had held in bondage for so many years. (*Pittsburgh Courier*, December 31, 1949.)

At Lake Success, the formal birth of the United States of Indonesia was hailed by the United Nations as a major U.N. achievement. . . . Though anxious for U.N. membership, Indonesian diplomats here are known to have counseled against an early application, preferring to mark time in the hope that some new twist in political winds, Russian attitude on the entire U.N. membership snarl, will improve chances of success for an Indonesian bid. . . . Ambassador L. N. Palar, In-

donesian representative at the U.N., saw the new independence as a big U.N. achievement, a stepping-stone toward peace and the ultimate freedom of all colonial peoples. (*N. Y. Herald Tribune*, Dec. 28, 1949.)

INDIA

In once imperial New Delhi on January 26, the last outward signs of the world's most successful imperialism vanished. Down fluttered the British flag and up went a tricolor of saffron, white and green. Indian officers replaced British insignia on their uniforms with the Asoka lion, named for a third-century Buddhist emperor. The sonorous strains of "God Save the King" gave way to "Jana-Gana-Mana" (The Mind of the People). . . .

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's Socialist-inclined government (India) has refused to take a stand against international Communism. It visualizes itself as a neutral moral force between two world-power blocs. Yet domestically it has clamped down hard on India's 70,000 Communists, jailing 3,000 to 4,000 of them. The Reds have been declining since they turned against the Indian nationalists in 1947. . . . (*Newsweek*, Feb. 6.)

"Both in what India put aside—allegiance to the British crown—and what she retained, this act (independence) formed a political revolution of the first magnitude," said an editorial in the *New York Herald Tribune* of January 27, in commenting on the Republic of India, "accomplished without violence and accompanied by warm good wishes from

India's former rulers in Britain. . . . The world can applaud without reserve the significant ceremonies at New Delhi, and welcome India into the ranks of sovereign powers. . . .

"Much is expected of a nation which has come into being under such favorable auspices as the Indian Republic, and which is led by men of such stature as Jawaharlal Nehru. . . . From the United States, in particular, there arises the fervent hope and faith that independent India will become the rock of freedom and strength that Asia needs today."

Madame Vijayalakshmi Pandit, India's Ambassador to the United States, told the Indian Parliament at New Delhi today that the United States now understands and accepts India's policy of avoiding alignments in the East-West cold war. She said this neutral policy had been little understood in the United States before the recent visit of her brother, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Since his visit, she said, Americans have accepted this policy "as the only possible course for India at the present time."

Following his sister, Prime Minister Nehru heatedly denied before the Parliament that he is pro-Communist. . . . "I represent India when I say we are not going to be pushed this way or that. We try our best not to be swept away by panic or fear. People ask me: 'Are you this, or are you that?' But I say: 'This is where I intend to be. Nowhere else.'" (*N. Y. Herald Tribune*, February 1.)

AFRICA

In Northern Nigeria a new town is rising named Takalafiya, which means "Walk in Health." With its wide, mahogany lined streets, elementary school, modern dispensary and spacious market, Takalafiya is a symbol of the new Africa.

But one mile to the east of this thriving community is the squalid, densely populated town of Old Anchau, formerly dis-

The matter in these pages is presented for the reader's information. It is not to be construed as reflecting the attitudes of the Department of Race Relations or of The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

strict headquarters and center of local government for the Anchau area. Until recently 80 per cent of its 2,500 inhabitants suffered from guinea-worm infection caused by impure water. One-third of them had sleeping sickness. Takalafiya was built as a part of a mass campaign against the tsetse-fly, the insect which causes sleeping-sickness. A corridor in the Anchau district has now been made safe from the disease by slashing down the trees and bushes where the tsetse breeds. Sixteen model villages have been built in the 700-square-mile corridor and smaller communities have been provided with sanitary, cement-lined walls. . . . This disease-prevention scheme was made possible by a grant to the sterling equivalent of \$384,000 under Britain's Colonial Development and Welfare Act. . . . More and more doctors and nurses, teachers, welfare workers and technical experts are coming from the ranks of the African populations. (*Pittsburgh Courier*, Dec. 31, 1949.)

In Central Africa, a team of scientists carried out a survey among 6,000 Africans employed in Nairobi by the Kenya and Uganda Railway, investigating what incentives appeal to African workers, their degree of efficiency, factors impairing the effective use of their labour, and how their output could be improved. Some of the conclusions summarized are:

Efficiency: An increasing standard of technical efficiency can be expected of East Africans if the handicaps from which they suffer are removed on European initiative and under European guidance. **Handicaps:** In some respects the greatest handicap is physical, and arises from malnutrition. . . . Another important handicap is European ignorance of African attitudes and of the motives which lie behind their actions. **Training:** This should be direct, detailed and "right on the spot"; . . . good supervision is vital. Incentives are difficult to find—the wage factor is the most successful—but the men work well and continuously if led by men whom they respect. . . . Cooperation through consultation with representative Africans is essential also to efficiency.

The report concludes that this "pilot" survey indicates the need for a fuller and more extended survey embracing broader knowledge of the social and economic life of Africans and of their attitude to the economic order surrounding them. (*Race Relations News*, Johannesburg, South Africa.)

Alpheous Afanamkni Lovunson, a former Zulu laborer, was admitted to practice before the Capetown, South Africa, Supreme Court today. He was the first Zulu laborer ever admitted to practice. He

worked as a porter, farm laborer, house boy and waiter to pay his way through Capetown University. He was warmly congratulated by white lawyers when he took the oath today. (*N. Y. Herald Tribune*, Jan. 12.)

DEATHS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Dr. Juan Salcedo, Director of the Philippines Nutrition Institute, told rice conference delegates in Burma today that 26,000 of his countrymen die each year because of a vitamin deficiency in their rice diet. . . . He said the death toll is traceable directly to wastage of essential elements by antiquated methods of milling and cooking rice. He said experiments being conducted in the Philippines have cut beriberi and other such diseases by 70 per cent. The main stumbling-block, he said, is the lack of vitamins which have to be imported at considerable cost. . . . Groundwork will be laid for an international conference of rice experts. . . . One hundred delegates from nineteen countries, including the United States, will take part. (*N. Y. Herald Tribune*, Feb. 1.)

OUR OWN WEST COAST

(Cullings from *Pacific Citizen*,
Salt Lake City, Utah)

Evacuation Claims

In Los Angeles, California, the first payment by the government under Public Law 886 of a claim for losses resulting from the 1942 mass evacuation of persons of Japanese ancestry from Pacific coast was made at a simple ceremony on December 16 in the Los Angeles field office of the Justice Department's evacuation claims division. Claim No. 1 to be paid by the government was that of Tokuji Tokimasa, 61, a licensed real estate broker in Los Angeles, who received a check for \$303.36. He had filed a claim for \$322.89 . . . claiming the loss of office furnishings, legal books and several hundred copies of a Japanese book of which he is author. He was evacuated to the Heart Mountain relocation center and later taught Japanese in the U.S. Navy language school at Boulder, Colorado. He received a letter of commendation from the Navy Department for his wartime services.

At the time of the presentation of the claim check, William H. Jacobs, acting head of the Los Angeles office, praised the wartime loyalty of Americans and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry, stating "Your claim was small which is why this check is small. . . . From now on, there will be a steady stream of payments for losses until the last claimant has been paid."

Mr. Tokimasa declared he was "completely satisfied" with the amount of the

award he received from the government. . . . He did not have written proof of his losses but presented a witness who corroborated his statements. (*Dec. 17, 1949.*)

From Vancouver, B. C., it was reported that Canadians of Japanese ancestry who lost personal and business property as a result of wartime mass evacuation in 1942 have filed claims for more than \$7,000,000. . . . Payments are expected to start early in 1950. Nearly 24,000 persons were moved from the British Columbia coast in the evacuation, to interior housing projects in the Canadian Rockies, and losses covered everything from real estate to personal effects, fishing boats, nets, household goods. It is reported 1,405 claims have been filed by individuals and 17 by corporations. The last and largest of the corporation claims was that filed by the Deep Bay Logging Company, Ltd. requesting \$464,134.02 for timber, logging equipment and a logging railway near Cowichan Lake which were seized and sold. (*Dec. 17, 1949.*)

Legislation

The Walter Resolution and the Judd Bill still top the list of legislation which the JACL Anti-Discrimination Committee will seek to have enacted into law during the second session of the 81st Congress. . . . The Walter Resolution which passed the House in June and now is pending in the Senate, provides that the right of naturalization shall not be denied any person because of race. Present legislation prohibits naturalization of all Orientals except Indians, Chinese and Filipinos. Chances for passage of the resolution are considered highly favorable.

The Judd Bill, which provides both for naturalization and limited immigration from all Asiatic countries, still is being pushed by the ADC. This bill passed the House by the overwhelming vote of 336 to 39 on March 1, 1949, but since has been under study of a special subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee Investigating Immigration and Naturalization. (*Jan. 7.*)

Employment

Employer discrimination against Californians of Oriental ancestry was noted in San Francisco during January by the Chinese Press which reported that out of 768 job orders received by the California State Employment Service in the city, 304 carried discriminatory specifications against one or more racial groups, and Oriental Americans were unwanted in 163 instances. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted to conduct a hearing during January on a proposed fair employment practices ordinance which will guarantee equal job rights for all San Franciscans regardless of race, color or creed. Meanwhile, Superior Judge Robert McWilliams

recently criticized the Board of Supervisors committee studying the FEPC measure for putting fair employment proposals "into the never-never land of 'more study' and vague voluntary agreements." His criticism was echoed by Dr. Ralph A. Reynolds, president of the Council for Civic Unity, who added that "currently 90 per cent of all San Francisco job orders received in the State Department of Employment discriminate against Negroes, and 75 per cent of them discriminate against Orientals."

Establishment of a fair employment practices group in San Francisco was proposed last August by Mayor Elmer E. Robinson's Committee on Human Relations. (Jan. 21.)

The Nisei in 1950

"The spectacular growth of the Japanese American Citizens League during the year 1949 cannot be laid to so simple a thing as the need for social contact among the Nisei," says an editorial in *Pacific Citizen* for December 31, 1949. "During the last twelve months the JACL attained for the first time a breadth of operation and organization that could enable it to be designated truly national. Chapters were formed in areas where the Nisei had long been resident but had never before organized on purely racial grounds. Local groups were formed in Texas, areas of Colorado, Wyoming and Montana where the JACL had not touched. JACL organizations in the mid-western states and in the east were strengthened. . . . The Nisei had pecked away at little injustices (heretofore); had tried to smooth down the minor symptoms of discrimination. . . . It was not until the war and the evacuation that the Nisei came to grips with political reality. . . . The evacuation did not make heroes of the Nisei; but it did call out some impelling strength and a determination to come back. . . . The Nisei came out of the camps ready to tackle not alone the injustice of the evacuation but injustice on many fronts. They came out ready to fight for what before the war had seemed impossible goals — naturalization for the Issei, cancellation of restrictive land laws, discriminatory laws in employment and housing.

"Strength in organization, an identification of self with the larger good and an instinct for probing sensitive spots for discrimination — these things the Nisei learned in the bitter years of the war. The new year 1950 may prove a year of fullfilment for the Nisei and the Issei."

Japanese Diet Members Visit

In their first meeting with Japanese permanently residing in the United States, the 14 members of Japanese Diet on a study tour of the United States institu-

tions, were hailed on January 16 at San Francisco as architects of a new society in the reconstruction of Japan. Local Japanese greeting the arrivals were members of the Kikaken Kakutoku Kisei Domei of Northern California. This group is composed of pioneer immigrants from Japan, most of whom have resided in the United States for over forty years. Post-war efforts of Japanese Americans to obtain a correction of injustice and equal treatment for themselves were related to the visitors by Akimi Sugawara of the local committee. He cited specific examples of legislative achievement; extension of the War Brides Act in 1947 permitting Nisei to marry Japanese brides and bring them to this country; the 1947 appropriation for fire losses incurred by Japanese Americans while in relocation centers; clemency obtained in deportation proceedings; evacuation loss claims; removal of restrictions on travel for alien Japanese between Hawaii and the mainland; inclusion of Japanese among the first trade group to Japan; permission to enable visits to Japan. The largest single unfinished business, Mr. Sugawara emphasized, was the hope for passage of the Walter Resolution.

Representing the American born citizens of Japanese ancestry, Joe Grant Ma-saoka, regional director of the Japanese American Citizens League, said to the delegation: "As you are reconstructing a better society in Japan, so we Japanese in America are constructing for ourselves a respected and acceptable place in the hearts of the American people. . . . Measured by pre-war standards of public sentiment, gains attained by Japanese Americans have been most impressive: Nisei are more secure in their property holdings than at any time before; Issei will soon be able to follow any occupation they choose and hold property as others now do; legislative persecution which originated in the State now has disappeared; Nisei now have better jobs than they ever had before; homes can be acquired and occupied in the best residential sections." (Jan. 21.)

CAPSULE INFORMATION

The American Bowling Congress, Chicago, today countered charges of race discrimination by saying that it is a private club and that nobody has the "inalienable right" to belong. The A.B.C. filed its answer to a suit brought last November in Superior Court after the C.I.O. attacked the bowling group as a "monopoly" barring Negroes. "The restriction of membership of teams to persons of the white male sex," said the answer, "is a valid and proper exercise of the rights and privileges conferred upon the A.B.C.'s members by the constitution, statutes and common law of Illinois." (N. Y. *Herald Tribune*, Jan. 24.)

Army commanders all over the world were ordered today to integrate Negro troops into all units of the service in accord with their "skills and qualifications" and without regard to their color. An Army spokesman said the order meant that Negroes would be assigned to hitherto all-white combat units, with joint messing and billeting facilities, and "eventual" elimination of the Army's present all-Negro organizations. (N. Y. *Herald Tribune*, Jan. 17.)

The James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection of Arts and Letters at Yale University was formally opened today with ceremonies at Sprague Hall. . . . The collection contains manuscripts, letters, books, photographs and other records of contemporary Negro life in America, and was begun by Carl Van Vechten twenty-five years ago when he was assembling material for a novel. (N. Y. *Herald Tribune*, Jan. 8.)

"While members of the race (Negro) collectively and as individuals, may have achieved more substantial gains in journalism, business and civil rights (in the first half of the twentieth century), our progress has nowhere been more conspicuous than in the theatre," writes Theophilus Lewis in *Interracial Review* for January, in his article, "The Half Century in the Theatre." "In 1900 the Negro actor was blackface comedian, a song and dance man. In 1950, with blackface virtually extinct on the American stage, the Negro actor may be a walk on, a chorus man, or . . . featured in a top Broadway drama. . . . Our progress from 'Birth of a Nation' to 'Pinky' would have seemed incredible in 1910. Now it's history."

"Are you an Indian?" was asked of a young Negro woman who went into a Washington (D.C.) cafeteria. "No, I am an American Negro," she answered. She was told, "Sorry, then, we can't serve you."

This incident is cited in an article entitled "Washington—Disgrace to the Nation," by Howard Whitman appearing in the February *Woman's Home Companion*. On a "tour no sightseer ever took" the author finds conditions of slums, discourtesy and discrimination against Negroes in public places, political slavery, hospital inefficiency and negligence; and cites also the remarks of many of the senators who made a slum tour last year and were horrified.

"There is much the citizens of Washington would like to sweep clean if Congress would give them the broom," writes Mr. Whitman. "How can we sell democracy if we don't dare open our sample case? How can we try to democratize the

outside world until we have really democratized Washington, D.C.? . . . Let's stop rolling out the marble carpet for the visitors—while medieval slums, denial of the suffrage, miserable local government and Jim Crowism are hidden beneath. Washington should be a national shrine—not a national disgrace."

Writes H. A. Overstreet, renowned philosopher, in a searching article entitled "The Gentle People of Prejudice," in *The Saturday Review of Literature* for January 21:

"The terrifying thing about the cruelty of prejudice is that it justifies itself to itself. . . . Justice is a relation between what an individual does and the rewards or punishments he receives. A culture begins to slip morally when it grants special privileges or denies them on grounds that have nothing to do with individual desert. . . . The basic moral law requires that as a man is and does so shall he be judged. . . . Everyone who accepts for himself the special privileges that go with denying them to people of a subordinated race makes possible all the cruelties that arise out of such unjust discrimination. . . .

"The corruption of the best is the worst of corruptions.' It is the college president who earnestly justifies the quota system who is inwardly corrupt, because, supposedly enlisted in the age-long struggle for human dignity (the Great Tradition), he rationalizes himself out of the struggle when it goes counter to the local mores and the prejudices of his board. It is the minister of the church who timidly suggests that Negroes go elsewhere who is inwardly corrupt, because he denies the Master he asks people to serve. It is the respectable people who would not dream of letting a Negro enter by the front door who are inwardly corrupt because they are willing to insult without even knowing that they insult.

"What prejudice does to the prejudiced is, in subtler or in grosser ways, to work this inner corruption. This is the image we need to build of the people who claim white supremacy and Christian superiority. They are intellectually and morally sick people. What is worse, they are sick people who try to make their own sickness the measure of their society's health."

SOME HAPPY TRENDS

In East St. Louis—Negro and white school students went to classes together here today for the first time in eighty-five years. All was harmonious as more than 100 Negro students took advantage of the East St. Louis Board of Education edict abolishing segregation by enrolling in six schools previously reserved for whites. Two white children transferred to a school which before was all-Negro. (N. Y. *Herald Tribune*, Jan. 31.)

Among the Churches—The National Home Missions Congress in session in Columbus, Ohio, today called "class and caste" the "most serious and alarming symptom of secularism." Citing church colleges which have grown secularistic in outlook, the Findings Committee pointed to interracial relations of churches and said, "Class and caste, the whole disintegrated structure of our secular society, are set up where they have no right to be, in the temple of God. . . . The interracial church is a symbol merely, unless the neighborhood is interracial. Where the neighborhood consists of a variety of groups, the church's membership should represent them.

"We commend the Fair Employment Practices Commission Act to all citizens for study and ask that they give to their Congressmen their viewpoints," was contained in the Committee report. (N. Y. *Herald Tribune*, Jan. 28.)

Civil Rights Rally—"We call it 'National Emergency Civil Rights Mobilization' and the response from the people from 33 states, more than 4,000 strong showed that a great awakening is taking place at home," said an editorial in the *St. Louis Argus* of January 27, commenting on the Civil Rights Conference held in Washington January 15-17 (*Interracial News Service*, End-of-Year, 1949) as a National Emergency Civil Rights Mobilization.

"Never before, probably, have the law-makers at the National Capital seen such a large number of what may be called 'grass-rooters' both white and colored from all walks of life stirred on such an important issue," continued the editorial. "The four thousand and more people who converged on Washington . . . had a purpose written on their faces. The casual observer could see that they were disturbed. Anyone could see that they

wanted action from the law-makers which meant more than campaign promises. They wanted CIVIL RIGHTS for all. And while it is true that special stress and emphasis were put on FEPC legislation, the President's Civil Rights program held the spotlight of the meeting. Of course the full significance of the meeting has not been counted yet, but there is no doubt but that such a meeting is having a far-reaching effect toward the ends for which it was called. All the voters have to do is to vote in November just as they told the members of Congress they would vote." . . .

ANNOUNCEMENT

Interracial News Service becomes of age with this issue!

Through the cooperation and interest of hundreds of our readers and friends through the years, this periodical has grown from an experimental news sheet to an indispensable piece on the literature shelves of churches, councils of churches, colleges, libraries, and in the homes of many who believe in interracial justice and goodwill.

This is the first issue with the new type styles and prepaid mailing arrangement. Commencing as of this date, also, the subscription fee is \$2.00 for two years. Of course this does not affect present subscribers until their subscriptions expire. There is a saving to all in subscribing for the two-year period. (A year's subscription would be \$1.25.)

Interracial News Service has always been non-profit. Its purpose is to be of the largest possible educational value to all whose interests include keeping abreast of interracial questions in our own country and abroad.

We thank our subscribers and welcome new friends to join them.

—The Editors

DEPARTMENT OF RACE RELATIONS

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